



NEWS Release

Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620

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Public Comment Sought on Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Bicycle Campsites at Four Montana State Parks

(Helena, MT) –Montana State Parks (MSP) (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that public comment is being sought on a draft environmental assessment (EA) for proposed shared group bicycle campsites at four state parks in western Montana. The park locations are Whitefish Lake State Park near Whitefish, MT; Flathead Lake-Wayfarers State Park near Bigfork, MT; and Placid Lake and Salmon Lake State Parks near Seeley, MT. **Public Comment accepted through Friday, February 5 at 5pm.**

The proposed improvements include enhancing existing shared group bicycle campsites at Whitefish Lake and Wayfarers State Parks, and construction of new shared group bicycle campsites at Placid Lake and Salmon Lake State Parks. These campsites would be located in or adjacent to previously developed areas within each state park.

The existing sites would be enhanced with a bicycle rack, additional bear resistant food lockers, a potable water hydrant, and a 12'x16' covered shelter with picnic tables, a bicycle maintenance stand and two electrical outlets. The new sites would accommodate up to 10 tent spaces and include a fire ring and the same amenities proposed for the enhanced existing bicycle campsites.

The proposal would be funded by \$200,000 from the Montana Department of Commerce. Because these are shared group sites that do not require space for a motor vehicle or camper parking, camping fees would be lower than standard campsite fees. Shared group bicycle sites would be available on a first come first serve basis. The sites would also be available to campers arriving by other non-motorized means such as hiking or kayaks.

The proposed improvements and construction of new shared group bicycle campsites at two additional state parks would address the increasing demand to accommodate touring bicyclist and help support bicycle tourism in Montana.

The public is invited to comment on the draft EA. The public comment period will be open for 30 days. **Comments are accepted through Friday, February 5, 2016 at 5pm.** To view the EA visit: http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0051.html

To comment **online** visit stateparks.mt.gov and click on “submit comments” or by direct link here: http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0051.html

Send comments by **email** to: treilly@mt.gov, Subject: Bicycle Campsite EA. Or by regular **mail** to: Bicycle Campsite EA, Montana State Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT, 59620-0701.

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